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The spelling of *Semioptera wallacii* (Paradisacidae)

by Mary LeCroy

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I believe that some comment on McAlpine's (1979) article on the spelling of several names in the family Paradisacidae is in order. He proposes to use the spelling *Semeioptera wallacei*; this spelling was used in the *Literary Gazette* report concerning the meeting of the Zoological Society of London at which Gray proposed both the name *Semioptera* as the subgeneric name and *wallacii* as the specific name of Wallace's Standard-wing Bird of Paradise. This *Literary Gazette* was published (March 1859) before the *Proceedings* of the meeting in question (June 1859) and contained a description of the bird. To further complicate matters a report on the meeting also appeared in *Ibis* (April 1859: 210) before the *Proceedings* were published but in which the *Literary Gazette* article was quoted.

I have not seen the original *Literary Gazette* article, but McAlpine says that the spelling there was *Semeioptera* for the subgenus (later elevated to generic rank) and *Wallacei* for the species. In the *Ibis* article, within the quotation from the *Literary Gazette*, the name is spelled *Semioptera* for the subgenus and *wallacii* for the species, as it is in the rest of the *Ibis* article itself. In the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, published in June 1859, Gray spelled the name as *Semioptera* for the subgenus and *wallacii* for the species. Gray obviously intended the spelling to be *Semioptera wallacii*, and I consider the spelling in the *Literary Gazette* a misspelling. Nevertheless, as McAlpine says, there was included a recognizable description of the bird. However, as far as I have been able to determine, the spelling *Semeioptera* has never been used in the literature in over 120 years and, as *Wallacei* is only a variant spelling of Wallace's name, I am petitioning the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to suppress the names *Semeioptera* and *Wallacei* in reference to Wallace's Standard-wing Bird of Paradise and to conserve, in the interest of nomenclatural stability, the spelling *Semioptera wallacii*, which I believe was Gray's intended spelling.

I would also like to point out that while the citation for the description of

Semioptera wallacii in Gilliard (1969: 126) is not correct, as Gould did not describe the bird, the plate of Wallace's Standard-wing Bird of Paradise in Gould's (1859) *Birds of Australia Supplement* was the second one (Roman numeral II, not Arabic ii) in Part 3 of the *Supplement* and is so listed on the cover of the third part, which is bound into the American Museum copy. "Part 3" was omitted from the reference in Gilliard. Plate 57 is the number of the plate in the recommended final binding sequence, as stated by McAlpine, and no reference should be made to parts if that number is used. According to the cover of Part 3, it was issued on 1 September 1859. This postdates all of the publications relevant to Gray's description cited above.

In my opinion the spelling *Paradisaea* is correct. In Linnaeus (1758: 83) the spelling *Paradisea* is a *nomen nudum* as no description is included, and it is not part of the Index. In the same work (p. 110) where the description occurs, the spelling is *Paradisaea*. Furthermore, the spelling is unchanged in the 10th revised edition of 1760. Linnaeus, in his subsequent 12th (1766) edition cannot be construed as the first reviser (see Article 24 a1 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*). When later authors have used the spelling *Paradisea* they have quoted the original description as Linnaeus, 1766. As the bird was obviously described in Linnaeus, 1758, p. 110 and spelled *Paradisaea*, this is the spelling which should be used.

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The subspecific name of the Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanyiptera galatea* from Halmahera Island, North Moluccas (Maluku Utara), Indonesia

by S. Dillon Ripley

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In reporting on a collection of birds made by my wife and myself on Halmahera Island (Ripley 1959), I discussed the Paradise (Racquet-tailed) Kingfishers *Tanyiptera galatea* of the Northern Moluccas with special reference to new material we had collected on Halmahera and Batjan islands.